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OKEHAMPTON RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR

Year Ending 31st December, 1947

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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health :
E. D. ALLEN-PRICE, M.D., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector :
L. R. CHAPMAN, Cert. R.S.I.,
Cert. Meat and Foods.

Engineer and Surveyor :
L. G. BAILEY, F.F.S.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector :
L. E. LETHBRIDGE, Cert. R.S.I.,
Cert. Meat and Foods.

Clerks in the Department :
I. G. CANN.
T. MARSHALL.
H. SILLIFANT.



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MR. CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS,

I beg to submit my annual report for the year 1947.

The general health of the district remained good throughout the year and, with the exception of Measles and Whooping Cough, which were rather widely spread, the infectious diseases were minimal.

Your district is fortunate in possessing very great natural beauty ; and the diversity of geographic conditions—varying from luxuriant river valleys via rapidly moving streams to the uninhabited central massif of Dartmoor—all of which is a great attraction to visitors seeking recuperation from the city's toil.

Chief Industries

Geography, geology and climate have decreed from time immemorial that the chief industry is agriculture with the usual ancillaries. It is then well to remember, when planning for the future, that progress must, of necessity, follow lines already laid down, and not to endeavour to create an artificial urbanisation which cannot rest on a stable basis.

SECTION A

GENERAL

The births showed a slight decrease on the unusually high figure for the previous year. But the birth rate does not compare unfavourably with England and Wales. The infantile mortality, which is a good index of civilised care, is only half of that for the country as a whole.

The deaths recorded were somewhat higher than usual, but it will be seen from the table that the vast majority of people lived to a ripe old age. As regards the causes of deaths, it will be seen that about two-thirds died from diseases of the heart or blood vessels ; which doubtless is the result of the wear and tear of life. The new science of Gerontology may, in the future, do much to ameliorate this premature ageing of the people. At the present time, however, much could be done for these ageing and retired people by providing small residences near to village amenities where an undue tax on their remaining energy would not be too heavily tried.

General Statistics

Area (in acres)	132,514
Population—1931 Census	13,020
Population—Mid 1947	12,290
Number of Inhabited Houses	4,240
Rateable Value	£51,273
Product of Penny Rate	£223
Loan Debt	£162,000

Vital Statistics

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>	
Live Births	103	92	195	
Legitimate	96	88		
Illegitimate	7	4		
				<i>England and Wales</i>
Birth Rate per 1,000 population			15.9	20.5
Still Births			4	
Still Birth Rate			20.6	0.50
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>	
Deaths	84	89	173	
Death Rate per 1,000 population			14.1	12.0
Deaths from Maternal Causes			Nil	1.17
Deaths of Infants under 1 year			4	
Infantile Mortality			21	41.0

The chief causes of death were :—

INFECTIOUS CAUSES :

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	..	..	..	3
Influenza	..	..	..	2

GENERAL CAUSES :

Heart Disease	..	..	..	..	49
Cancer	..	..	..	..	19
Senility	..	..	..	..	17
Arterio Sclerosis	..	..	..	..	16
Cerebral Haemorrhage	..	..	..	..	15
Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	11
Nephritis	..	..	..	..	10
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	6
Asthma	..	..	..	..	2
Congenital	..	..	..	..	2
Prematurity	..	..	..	..	2
Gastric Ulcer	..	..	..	..	2
Diabetes	..	..	..	..	1
Pernicious Anaemia	..	..	..	..	1
Other Violent Causes	..	..	..	..	5
All Other Causes	..	..	..	..	10
					<hr/> 173 <hr/>

CAUSES OF DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR :

Prematurity	..	..	..	..	2
Meningitis	..	..	..	..	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	..	..	..	..	1
					<hr/> 4 <hr/>

Age of Death Table

<i>Age at Death</i>					<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Infants under 1 year	..				3	1
1— 5 .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	2
5—15 .. .. .	..	..	..	..	—	1
15—25 .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	—
25—35 .. .. .	..	..	..	..	2	1
35—45 .. .. .	..	..	..	..	4	2
45—55 .. .. .	..	..	..	..	4	5
55—65 .. .. .	..	..	..	..	13	7
65—75 .. .. .	..	..	..	..	17	29
75 and over .. .. .	..	..	..	..	39	41
					84	89
Total .. .. .	..	..	..	..	173	

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICES

The general provisions of the health services remained as reported in previous years.

During the year the County Council submitted schemes for the implementation of part three of the National Health Service Act, 1946. On study of the proposals it was found that the intention of the Health Authority was to completely centralise the administration in Exeter which, in the opinion of many, would aggravate an already unsatisfactory state of affairs. After much deliberation the district authorities decided unanimously to appeal for delegation of these powers, and these discussions are still continuing.

For the Preventive Medical Services to work properly and efficiently, it is essential that the environmental and personal services should be integrated. This, in the opinion of the writer, can only be achieved by one senior officer stationed locally who can deal with situations, as they arise, on the spot. The question is, therefore, to whom are these important functions to be delegated? It appears that the machinery for decentralisation is not yet in existence. What appears to be necessary first is the creation of a new authority, either by amalgamation or federation, which would be intermediate in population and financial resources between the present too small district and the unwieldy County. If some such arrangement as this could be agreed upon, the Preventive Medical Services could be organised as a whole on a local basis; with a great increase of efficiency, as much over-lapping, at present inseparable from the two tier system, would be eliminated.

Hospital Accommodation.—There is no general hospital within the Rural District, but good use is made of the War Memorial Hospital in Okehampton. Serious cases are removed to Exeter.

Maternity Accommodation.—This is sadly lacking, but efforts are being made to increase the accommodation in Okehampton, and in this respect the Winsford Cottage Hospital, Beaworthy, which is entirely devoted to maternity cases, serves a very useful function.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA

Water Supply

In accordance with instructions of the Ministry of Health, dated 31st December, 1947, an attempt has been made to give a detailed parochial account of the water supply situation in your 27 parishes. (*See Table at end of report.*)

The North Devon Water Board, who are now the Statutory suppliers of water for the Rural District, have commenced operations on the West Ockment Intake and are starting shortly on the reservoir at Prewley Down, Sourton. Many dipping wells and even other supplies which are now looked upon as adequate will be condemned immediately the pure water is available.

It is a surprising fact that fewer complaints are received where the supply is quantitatively most deficient than from those parishes which may be described as borderline cases. Presumably what the people have never had they do not miss.

Analysis of Water Supplies.—The subjoined table sets out the number of samples taken for analysis. It will be seen that the remarks above are substantiated by the number of bacteriological samples which failed.

Lead has been discovered in the South Tawton water, presumably from its acidity and the action therefrom on the lead service pipes. Action has been taken to neutralize this tendency by chemical means.

	<i>Number of Samples Taken</i>	<i>Passed</i>	<i>Failed</i>
<i>Bacteriological Examination of Water</i>	37	9	28
<i>Chemical Analysis of Water</i>	7	4	3

Lead one-thirtieth grains per gallon South Tawton.

Under powers delegated by the North Devon Water Board the following operations were undertaken to safeguard supplies already in existence :

Bondleigh

Public well properly benched up and fenced off to prevent surface contamination, and pump repaired. Sample taken and water satisfactory.

Drewsteignton

Because of faecal contamination, caused entirely by birds, chlorination on a limited scale has been introduced.

North Tawton

Because of the failure of the springs gravitating to the main reservoir and the extremely low level of the borehole, immediate steps had to be taken in the late summer to provide an emergency water supply. A spring, capable of supplying 1,000 gallons an hour, was piped to an intermediate reservoir and the water pumped to the main reservoir. A permanent pump is to be installed, and it is anticipated that this emergency supply will become a permanent feature.

Sampford Courtenay (Sticklepath)

The intake pipes from the springs to the reservoir have been taken up, the pipes cleared of roots and sediment, resulting in a considerable increase in quantity.

South Tawton

Because of the possibility of the water having a plumbo solvent action, a scheme has been prepared to construct a limestone filter. A contract has been entered into and works will proceed immediately the necessary pipes and fittings are delivered.

Spreyton

Samples taken from pump show that water is satisfactory bacteriologically.

Additional Water Schemes carried out during the Year

Mains to South Zeal Housing Site.

Mains to Chagford Housing Site.

Extension of main from Ford Cross, South Zeal to Sticklepath Bridge.

New Reservoir at Exbourne, and new mains to Monkokehamp-ton and Jacobstowe.

Additional Water Schemes prepared but not commenced

Extension of main from Belstone to Skaigh.

Extension of main from Broomhill, Chagford to Teign Marsh, Chagford.

Drainage and Sewerage

Once again it must be pointed out that there are innumerable instances of defective sanitation and sewage disposal in the Rural District. The North Devon Water Board having commenced operations, it is probably only a matter of months before a network of mains intersects the district. What will happen to already over-charged sewage disposal plants when the water is in full use can be

left to the imagination. It is strongly recommended that sewerage schemes be considered in close relationship to the progress of the water mains, and every effort made to enable both works to proceed jointly.

New Works and Maintenance

During the year sewers have been constructed for the new housing estates at Chagford and South Zeal.

A new scheme for Sandy Park area is in process of preparation.

General maintenance of existing works have been carried out satisfactorily and new schemes, incorporating broad irrigation, have been prepared.

Many examples of defective drainage to private properties have been discovered by inspection. Where possible the premises have been drained to existing sewers. If this could not be done, small private sewage disposal systems have been constructed by the owners.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

Many complaints were personally investigated by your Medical Officer and recommendations given on the spot.

Below is a table recording the outside work done by the inspectors :—

<i>Types of Premises</i>	<i>No. of Inspections</i>	<i>No. of Notices Served</i>	<i>No. of Notices Complied With</i>
Houses Inspected	793	158	101
Houses Reinspected	309	—	—
Premises other than houses and not mentioned below	68	20	20
Food Premises	33	3	1
Cowsheds	102	16	8
Refuse Tips	61	4	4
Public Conveniences	53	—	—
Public Water Supplies	310	—	—
Private Water Supplies	89	6	6
Sewers	116	—	—
Tents, Vans and Sheds	23	3	3
Miscellaneous Visits not classified	141	—	—
Disinfection	42	—	—
	<u>2140</u>	<u>210</u>	<u>143</u>

Rat Infestation

<i>First Inspections and Reinspections</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Total</i>
Private Houses	460	
Business Premises	380	
Tips	88	
Sewerage Outfalls	316	1244

Total Number of Rats recovered	2161
--------------------------------	------	------	------	------

Types of Poisons used : Zinc Phosphide, Arsenic and Red Squills.
 (Note.—Visits in connection with rat infestation are not included in general record of inspections.)

Refuse Collection and Disposal

An almost comprehensive scheme for scavenging was adopted by the Council, and the following townships, villages and hamlets now have the advantages of this service. It is hoped that in time it will be extended to a full comprehensive collection for the whole area :—

<i>Township, Village or Hamlet</i>	<i>Period of Collection</i>
Belstone and Sticklepath	Fortnightly in Summer Monthly in Winter
Bratton Clovelly and Village Area	Quarterly
Bridestowe and Sourton including Thorn- don Cross	Fortnightly in Summer Monthly in Winter
Chagford	Weekly
Outlying Places	Fortnightly
Drewsteignton	Fortnightly in Summer Monthly in Winter
Whiddon Down	Monthly
Exbourne and Jacobstowe	Monthly
Hatherleigh, Inwardleigh and Folly Gate to Borough Boundary	Weekly in Summer in town, otherwise fort- nightly or monthly
Northlew	Monthly
North Tawton	Twice weekly in Summer Weekly in Winter
Sampford Courtenay	Monthly
South Tawton	Weekly in Summer Fortnightly in Winter
Spreyton	Fortnightly
Throwleigh and Gidleigh	Monthly

Factories

The administration of the Factories Act, 1937, in its applica- tion to the Rural District, has been carried out, and regular inspec- tions made. The subjoined tables set these out in compliance with the Statutory form submitted for completion.

1. Inspections.

<i>Premises</i> (1)	<i>Number on Register</i> (2)	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>Inspections</i> (3)	<i>Written Notices</i> (4)	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted</i> (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	55	65	5	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authorities	—	—	—	—
(iii) Other Premises ..	—	—	—	—
<i>Total</i>	55	65	5	Nil

2. Cases in which Defects were found.

<i>Particulars</i> (1)	<i>Number of cases in which defects were found</i>				<i>Number of cases in which prosecu- tions were instituted</i> (6)
	<i>Found</i> (2)	<i>Remedied</i> (3)	<i>Referred To H.M. Inspector</i> (4)	<i>By H.M. Inspector</i> (5)	
Want of Cleanliness	4	4	—	—	Nil
Overcrowding ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ..	1	—	—	—	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors ..	1	—	—	—	Nil
Sanitary conveniences :					
(a) Insufficient	3	—	—	—	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	1	—	—	Nil
<i>Total</i> ..	11	5	—	—	Nil

Schools

The twenty-one Council schools were visited several times during the year, either to investigate cases of infectious disease, immunisation of the children or in answer to sanitary complaints.

The children are generally very healthy and cases of uncleanness are much rarer than of yore. Practically all the schools now have arrangements for the children to have a hot midday meal, either cooked at the school canteen or delivered in hot boxes from one of the central kitchens. This is a wonderful improvement on the days when the staple meal was a potato pasty washed down with water.

SECTION D

HOUSING

Rural Housing Survey

During the year 137 houses have been inspected in connection with the Housing Survey, and are classified into the following groups:

Houses fit in all respects	....	....	....	....	....	23
Houses with minor defects only	....	....	....	....	....	44
Houses requiring structural alterations or repair	....	....	....	....	....	37
Houses requiring reconditioning	....	....	....	....	....	19
Houses requiring demolition or replacement	....	....	....	....	....	14

The inspections are confined to houses with a net rateable value of £12 and under.

It is hoped that the Survey will be completed in the current session.

The following report on housing and housing maintenance has been prepared by Mr. Bailey, your Housing Surveyor, and should be read in conjunction with the one in the previous report :—

The schedule given in the 1946 Annual Report showed the Council's programme for new house-building during 1947. Certain amendments have since been necessary, due mainly to the difficulties experienced in obtaining sites of immediate value to the programme, and in some cases to restriction being placed on existing sites. The " Airey " houses (20) allocated to the Council had originally been planned for erection as small units over various parts of the Rural District, but during February 1948 the Council was urged by the Ministry to take immediate delivery of the components and complete development of sites where house construction was already in progress.

In consequence the houses originally scheduled for Northlew and Exbourne have been transferred to the existing sites at South Tawton and Chagford. Of the Council's other schemes mentioned in the previous report delays have been due to the difficulties in obtaining satisfactory tenders for the work. In the case of North Tawton, where 16 houses are now under construction, a satisfactory tender has only been obtained at the expense of curtailing or omitting certain constructional items, including what might be felt by some to be a retrograde step in reducing the height of all rooms to 7 ft. 6 in. as compared with the previous height standard of 8 ft. 0 in.

At Throwleigh the work for the erection of two houses continues to be held up for the same reason. Notwithstanding these difficulties the Council's building programme stands at 44 houses now under construction, and 18 houses already completed. In addition, the allocation of houses to private enterprise shows one under construction and 10 already completed. The latest Regional allocation of the Ministry of Health permits the Council to prepare schemes for the erection of 24 additional houses during the period ending 31st December, 1948, four-fifths of which are to be let to agricultural workers and the remainder to be available to other applicants. Provision has not been made during this period for the erection of further houses by private developers.

At June 30th, 1948, the housing position was as summarised in the accompanying schedule : (*Page 14*).

HOUSING PROGRAMME

PARISH	Number of Houses commenced during 1947 and completed before June, 1948	Number of Houses in course of erection at June, 1948	Sites Selected	Sites Approved	Layout Plans Approved	House Plans Approved	Number of Houses proposed for 1948 Housing Programme	Anticipated Commencement during 1948	Anticipated Completion during 1948	Proposed Future Development to Close Sites	Ordnance Survey Location
Chagford (Monte Rosa) ..	5 Flats	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	O.S.309
Chagford (T) ..		8 T	*	*	*	*	5 T	5 T	13 T	9 T	O.S.586
Chagford (NT) ..		8 NT	*	*	*	*	—	—	8 NT		O.S.586
Drewsteignton (T) ..	—	—	*	*			4 T	4 T			O.S.449 and 495
Drewsteignton (NT) ..	4 NT	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	O.S.379
Exbourne ..	2 T	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	O.S.408
Hatherleigh ..	—	—	*	*			16 T	16 T			O.S.635 and 638
North Tawton ..	—	16 T	*	*	*	*	—	—	10 T		O.S.582
Northlew ..	—	—	*	*			4 T	4 T			O.S.339
Sampford Courtenay ..	—	—	*				2 T	2 T			O.S.309
South Tawton ..	4 NT	12 NT	*	*	*	*			12 NT	—	O.S.2365
Throwleigh ..	—	—	*	*	*	*	2 T	2 T	2 T	—	O.S.327 and 328
Totals ..	5 Flats 8 NT 2 T	20 NT 24 T					33 T	33 T	20 NT 25 T		

COUNCIL HOUSES IN THE OKEHAMPTON RURAL DISTRICT, 1947

<i>Parish</i>		<i>Situation</i>	<i>Number of Houses</i>	<i>Total Number in Parish</i>
Beaworthy	....	Black Hill	2	
		Patchacott	2	4
Belstone	....	Belstone	6	6
Bondleigh	....	Bondleigh	4	4
Bratton Clovelly	....	Bratton Clovelly	3	3
Bridestowe	....	Bridestowe	8	8
Broadwoodkelly	....	Broadwoodkelly	2	
		Splatt	1	3
Chagford	....	Dennis Park	33	
		Biera View	8	41
Drewsteignton	....	Drewsteignton	8	
		Whiddon Down	8	16
Exbourne	....	Exbourne	2	
Germansweek	....	—	—	—
Gidleigh	....	—	—	—
Hatherleigh	....	Moor View Terrace	12	
		Higher Street	6	
		Normandy Place	4	22
Highampton	....	Highampton	2	2
Iddesleigh	....	Iddesleigh	2	2
Inwardleigh	....	Folly Gate	6	6
Jacobstowe	....	—	—	—
Meeth	....	Meeth	10	10
Monkokehampton	....	—	—	—
Northlew with Ashbury		Northlew	4	4
North Tawton	....	Barton Hill	16	
		Fore Street	8	24
Okehampton Hamlets		Chichacott	4	
		Peacewater	2	6
Sampford Courtenay	....	Sampford Courtenay	4	
		Station	4	8
Sourton	....	Sourton	4	
		Down	6	10
South Tawton	....	South Tawton	6	
		South Zeal	14	20
Spreyton	....	Spreyton	6	6
Throwleigh	....	Throwleigh	2	
		Wonson	2	4

Grand Total 211

Site Works

Site works of a major nature are continuing at North Tawton, South Zeal and Chagford, where roads, sewers, water mains and other services are being provided simultaneously with the erection of the houses.

Housing Maintenance

The Housing Maintenance programme of the Council as undertaken by this department is along similar lines to those indicated in the previous Annual Report. Repairs, etc., are carried out by various contractors, with a proportion of materials being supplied direct by the Council. Apart from normal structural repairs, the most costly items concern sanitary arrangements. Many of the properties are served by obsolete house drainage systems, and in a large proportion of cases improvements are not possible owing to the lack of adequate water supply. These circumstances apply most generally to the small, rather remotely situated estates, but in some instances the same conditions exist where greater numbers of houses are built. Until main water supplies are available these systems must continue, with alternative outfall sites being periodically selected.

Although much remains to be done, it is felt that the work of the past year in the maintenance of the Council's properties has been satisfactory. It is certainly not possible at the present time to remedy all outstanding defects, but the repairs policy is progressive, and aims at effecting improvements in living conditions for the tenants.

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk

The inspectors took 163 samples of milk during the year, and the results of analysis are set out hereunder. The responsibility for registration and supervision of producers still remains under the dual control of your Council and the County Council, with the usual anomalies associated with dichotomous responsibility.

It will be seen from the accompanying table that there is no great difference in the percentage of failures between the designated and ordinary milk supply. This test is really a means of assessing the keeping quality of the milk, or a rough guide as to the quantity of filth in it. It is therefore, on first thoughts, surprising that the designated producers, having complied with the requirements of the County Council as regards premises—water supply, sterilisation equipment, and so on, cannot put up a better show. It must, however, be remembered that amongst the true agrarian there is a tradition in the working of the farm which experience has shown gives the best results.

At the present time milk has become a highly prized commercial product, and the economic magnet has drawn a number of non-agrarians into the industry whose capital has put on a fine exhibit of premises and equipment, but who, having no traditional knowledge and only a dangerous smattering of science, are producing an article which does not comply with normal standards of cleanliness. One case in point was a Tuberculin Attested producer who failed thirteen out of fifteen cleanliness tests, and, as far as the writer knows, no action was taken by the Licensing Authority to ask him why he should continue to hold his licence.

It should be remembered that the acquisition of a Tuberculosis free herd is the beginning of milk production and not, as some people seem to think, the ending of all further trouble. There should be only one standard of milk and that should be pure and free from germs of disease.

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Total Number</i>		<i>Passed</i>	<i>Failed</i>
	<i>Samples</i>	<i>Taken</i>		
Tuberculin Tested ..	34	19	} = 62%	15
Accredited ..	61	39		22
Tuberculin Tested School	1	—		1
Accredited School ..	3	3	} = 47%	—
Ordinary ..	38	17		21
Ordinary School ..	26	13		13
	<u>163</u>	<u>91</u>		<u>72</u>

Meat

The meat supply continued to come from the Tavistock Town Abattoir, and was duly inspected there.

By permission of the Tavistock Town Council the following table of inspections is submitted :

Meat Inspection

	<i>Cattle</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep</i>
Total No. Inspected	1729	1223	438	1617	9283
Percentage of whole carcasses affected with Tuberculosis	.64%	4.74%	.23%	.18%	—
Percentage of whole carcasses affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis	.52%	4.01%	.46%	2.1%	2.41%

	<i>Cattle</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep</i>
Percentage of organs or parts affected with Tuberculosis	11.4%	22.9%	8.9%	—	—
Percentage of organs or parts affected with diseases or conditions other than Tuberculosis	91.49%	81.93%	9.82%	2.35%	47.51%

Total number of animals killed	14,290
Total number of carcasses condemned for Tuberculosis ..	73
Total number of carcasses condemned for diseases other than Tuberculosis	318
Total number of organs or parts affected with Tuber- culosis	516
Total number of organs or parts affected with diseases or conditions other than Tuberculosis	7,076
	<u>7,983</u>

In addition to the meat condemned at the Slaughterhouse, 1,140 lbs. of corned beef and mutton were condemned at the W.M.S.A. Depot at the Pannier Market.

Inspection of Food and Foodstuffs

Four and a half hundredweights of miscellaneous foodstuffs were voluntarily surrendered by owners during the year, and condemned as unfit for human consumption. Inspection of food-preparing premises have continued to be made, improvements effected, and advice given in connection with personal and protective food hygiene.

Ice Cream Regulations

The requirements of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations have been communicated to three producers in the district and their premises inspected. In each case the producers have placed orders for the necessary equipment to comply with the Regulations.

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Your district was again fortunate in not having any epidemic of infectious disease. (See accompanying Tables.)

Infantile Paralysis.—Only one case of this disease was notified during the Autumn epidemic.

The notifiable diseases do not give anything like a proper picture of the conditions, undoubtedly infectious, which occur in a neighbourhood. In order to try to throw some light on to these conditions a research was initiated with the aid of a number of my medical colleagues.

As a first result of these enquiries it was found that Infectious Mononucleosis was quite widespread, and that several members of the same family became infected one after the other. Another condition which usually goes under the generic name of Gastric Influenza, can definitely, on clinical grounds, be split up into at least three clinical entities—giddiness and vomiting, vomiting only, which is frequently mistaken for food poisoning as is the first, and vomiting and diarrhoea, for which no chemical or bacteriological cause can be found. It appears that these conditions come into the class of virus infections and need much further elucidation. It is hoped that the future will hold out success to these researches.

Diphtheria.—No case of this disease was notified during the year.

Diphtheria Immunisation proceeded successfully during the year, and the accompanying table sets out the percentages of those immunised under a parochial basis. At the end of the year fifty per cent of the children under five years of age, and ninety-five per cent of the children between the ages of five and fifteen had completed a full course of immunisation.

The method of approach is, to parents of children under five by post at one year and periodically thereafter when the schools are visited, and school children through the schools. It can safely be assumed that if a child is not immunised it is not through any lack of suggestion from this office. It is with much regret that neither the Ministry or the County Council have seen fit to make use of this elaborate organisation which has only come about by years of effort.

In your district immunisation has been in operation for a number of years and the results have been extremely satisfactory.

Since the commencement of this procedure only isolated cases have occurred and most of these have been in young adults who have not been treated. It is interesting to note that the provisions in Section 26 of the Health Act requiring medical practitioners to be given facilities for immunisation, have been anticipated here by several years. In spite of this over 90% of the inoculations have been done by your Medical Officer.

The decision of the County Council, in exercising their prerogative, to centralise this procedure in Exeter, 20 miles away, should, in the opinion of your Medical Officer, be resisted to the utmost in the public interest.

Tuberculosis

Thirteen cases of Pulmonary and two cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year. Three deaths were recorded from the former.

At the end of the year 65 cases of Tuberculosis remained on the register and are set out below :—

<i>Pulmonary</i>				<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>			
Males	..	..	25	Males	..	..	4
Females	..	..	30	Females	..	..	6
TOTAL : 65							

In conclusion I would like to thank the Chairman and Council for the ready hearing I have received at all times.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

Your obedient servant,

E. D. ALLEN-PRICE,

Medical Officer of Health.

Infectious Diseases notified by Medical Practitioners during year ending 31st December, 1947

[illegible]

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN WHO HAVE COMPLETED FULL COURSE OF DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION TO YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1947

PARISH	UNDER ONE YEAR		ONE YEAR		TWO YEARS		THREE YEARS		FOUR YEARS		FIVE-NINE YEARS		TEN-FIFTEEN YEARS	
	Percentage Immsd.	Estimated Popln.	Percentage Immsd.	Estimated Popln.	Percentage Immsd.	Estimated Popln.	Percentage Immsd.	Estimated Popln.	Percentage Immsd.	Estimated Popln.	Percentage Immsd.	Estimated Popln.	Percentage Immsd.	Estimated Popln.
Ashbury ..	—%	5	—	—	—%	2	—%	1	67%	3	78%	9	83%	6
Beaworthy ..	—%	4	—%	5	50%	2	29%	7	33%	3	100%	11	83%	18
Belstone ..	—%	7	—%	4	80%	5	60%	5	100%	3	94%	17	91%	22
Bondleigh ..	—	—	—%	1	100%	2	100%	3	67%	3	100%	9	100%	5
Bratton Clovelly	—%	4	—%	4	57%	7	75%	4	—%	2	100%	25	75%	12
Bridestowe ..	—%	5	28%	7	58%	12	67%	12	60%	5	95%	37	74%	27
Broadwoodkelly	—%	1	25%	4	100%	1	—%	1	33%	3	27%	11	36%	11
Chagford ..	6%	17	42%	26	70%	20	88%	32	79%	28	95%	121	97%	66
Drewsteignton..	—%	11	64%	14	81%	16	78%	9	77%	13	88%	56	100%	37
Exbourne ..	—%	8	100%	1	60%	5	80%	5	57%	7	88%	17	86%	21
Germansweek ..	—%	1	33%	3	—%	1	75%	4	100%	1	100%	7	67%	6
Gidleigh ..	—%	1	100%	1	—%	2	—	—	—%	1	71%	7	67%	3
Hatherleigh ..	—%	17	11%	9	33%	6	62%	13	76%	17	99%	67	98%	59

PARISH	UNDER ONE YEAR		ONE YEAR		TWO YEARS		THREE YEARS		FOUR YEARS		FIVE-NINE YEARS		TEN-FIFTEEN YEARS	
	Percentage Immsd.	Estimated Popln.	Percentage Immsd.	Estimated Popln.	Percentage Immsd.	Estimated Popln.	Percentage Immsd.	Estimated Popln.	Percentage Immsd.	Estimated Popln.	Percentage Immsd.	Estimated Popln.	Percentage Immsd.	Estimated Popln.
Highampton ..	—%	3	—%	1	33%	3	50%	2	100%	2	77%	13	68%	16
Honeychurch ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	100%	1	100%	4
Iddesleigh ..	—%	1	50%	2	67%	3	100%	1	100%	3	100%	15	85%	13
Inwardleigh ..	—%	6	—%	14	33%	6	60%	10	70%	10	86%	28	82%	28
Jacobstowe ..	—%	4	100%	1	100%	1	50%	2	100%	1	100%	5	100%	10
Meeth ..	—%	2	—%	3	50%	2	50%	2	50%	2	83%	6	100%	16
Monkekehampton ..	—%	1	—%	1	—	—	—%	1	100%	2	100%	8	90%	10
Northlew ..	—%	7	—%	11	50%	4	73%	15	80%	10	90%	20	100%	31
North Tawton	—%	9	67%	24	71%	17	80%	15	75%	12	89%	66	92%	52
Okehampton Hamlets ..	—%	7	11%	9	73%	11	—%	4	50%	4	95%	41	100%	46
Sampford Courtenay ..	8%	12	9%	11	71%	7	43%	7	88%	7	93%	27	94%	32
Sourton ..	—%	3	40%	5	33%	6	75%	4	67%	6	97%	32	96%	26
South Tawton	—%	26	11%	19	92%	13	69%	16	94%	16	93%	40	100%	44
Spreyton ..	—%	4	56%	9	40%	5	33%	6	67%	3	89%	18	88%	17
Throwleigh ..	—%	3	—%	1	—%	3	40%	5	100%	2	100%	21	100%	8

OKEHAMPTON RURAL DISTRICT

Infectious Diseases notified from Schools during year ending 31st December, 1947

<i>School</i>	<i>Chicken Pox</i>	<i>Ringworm</i>	<i>Mumps</i>	<i>Scarlet Fever</i>	<i>Whooping Cough</i>	<i>Measles</i>	<i>German Measles</i>	<i>Impetigo</i>
Bridestowe	1	1	—	—	9	—	—	—
Exbourne	—	1	—	—	—	2	2	—
Germansweek	—	—	3	—	—	2	—	—
Iddesleigh and Dowland	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—
Northlew and Ashbury	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
North Tawton Primary	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
South Tawton	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3
Throwleigh	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	—
<i>Totals</i>	1	2	3	1	12	13	5	3

OKEHAMPTON RURAL DISTRICT WATER SUPPLIES

PARISH	Whether water supply satis: (a) in quality (b) in quantity	Examinations made	Evidence of contamination	Action taken	Particulars of the number of dwelling houses and the number of the population supplied from public water mains: (a) direct to the houses (b) by means of standpipes			
					No. Dwelling Hses.		Total Population	
					Main	Stand-pipe	Main	Stand-pipe
ASHBURY ..	Some wells polluted. Inadequate in quantity	No piped supply	Well water plumbo-solvent. No action taken during year	Nil	—	—	—	—
BEAWORTHY ..	Private wells only inadequate	No piped supply	No analyses during year	Nil	—	—	—	—
BELSTONE ..	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Routine examination	Nil	Nil	63	—	212	—
BONDLEIGH ..	Wells only (a) Surface contamination in some cases (b) Unsatisfactory	Bacteriological Satisfactory	Yes, in the past	Public well repaired Pump mended	—	—	—	—
BRATTON CLOVELLY	(a) Satisfactory (b) Unsatisfactory	Routine examination	Source improved, still doubtful	General supervision	4	36	15	139
BRIDESTOWE ..	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Routine examination	Nil	Nil	72	—	425	—
BROADWOODKELLY	Wells only (a) Doubtful (b) Unsatisfactory	Inspection only	Yes	Analysis	—	—	—	—
CHAGFORD ..	Piped supply from surface springs (a) Doubtful (b) Satisfactory	Analysis unsatisfactory	Yes	Chlorination	346	—	1168	—
DREWSTEIGNTON ..	Water from Quarry (a) Doubtful (b) Satisfactory	Major works undertaken to remove contamination	Yes, but dealt with	Chlorination	80	—	288	—
EXBOURNE ..	Supply from Borehole (a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Routine	No	Nil	65	—	196	—
GERMANSWEEK ..	Wells only (a) Doubtful (b) Doubtful	Nil	In the past	Nil	—	—	—	—
GIDLEIGH ..	Private supplies only	Nil	Nil	Nil	—	—	—	—
HATHERLEIGH ..	Water from Springs (a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Routine	Failed Bacteriological tests	Chlorination	256	—	877	—
HIGHAMPTON ..	Private supplies One Public Well	Nil	No	Nil	—	—	—	—
IDDESLEIGH ..	One Public Well (a) Doubtful (b) Unsatisfactory	Routine	In the past	Nil	—	—	—	—
JACOBSTOWE ..	Private Wells only	Nil	No	Nil	—	—	—	—
MEETH ..	Two Public Wells (a) Doubtful (b) Doubtful	Routine	In the past	Nil	—	—	—	—
MONK OKEHAMPTON ..	Public Well (a) Doubtful (b) Unsatisfactory	Nil	In the past	Nil	—	—	—	—
NORTHLEW ..	Public Well (a) Satisfactory (b) Unsatisfactory	Routine	No	Nil	—	—	—	—
NORTH TAWTON ..	Borehole into sandstone (a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Routine	Yes, but corrected	Major action (see body of report)	302	—	1012	—
OKEHAMPTON HAMLETS	Private Wells only	Nil	In the past	Nil	—	—	—	—
SAMPFORD COURTENAY	Partly piped (a) Satisfactory (b) Improved	Routine	In the past	Pipes cleared	24	36	97	110
SOUTON ..	Wells only (a) Unsatisfactory (b) Unsatisfactory	Routine	In the past	Nil	—	—	—	—
SOUTH TAWTON ..	Upland Springs (a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Routine	No	Nil	236	—	798	—
SPREYTON ..	Wells only (a) Satisfactory (b) Unsatisfactory	Bacteriological test satisfactory	Not recently	Nil	—	—	—	—
TIMKOWLEIGH ..	Private Supplies	Nil	Nil	Nil	—	—	—	—
TINWARDLEIGH ..	Private Supplies (a) Unsatisfactory (b) Unsatisfactory	Nil	Nil	Nil	—	—	—	—

